



Valley Advocates for Responsible Development

June 30, 2014

TO: Victor City Council Members
Driggs City Council Members

RE: Support for the Teton County Recreation & Public Access Master Plan

Dear City Council Members:

Thank you for authorizing the creation of the Teton County Recreation & Public Access Master Plan (“Rec Plan”). Recreation has been consistently identified as one of the primary reasons why residents from all walks of life choose to live here, and what attracts new businesses to relocate here.¹ We commend the work of the 24-person advisory committee that you appointed to craft this thoughtful plan over the past year. This easy-to-follow document lists our community’s existing assets, proposes how they can be better managed, and outlines plans for future expansion.

This Rec Plan will benefit the entire Teton Valley community in many ways. It will:

- **Provide a clear road map for recreation industries and related businesses.** This Rec Plan enables existing employers to see exactly where the community is headed with management and expansion of our recreation infrastructure.
- **Promote business investment.** Having a clear vision for the future enables recreation industries and related businesses to feel confident in making long-term capital investments here in Teton Valley.
- **Create jobs.** These employers will likewise be able to plan for workforce expansion.
- **Help secure grants and philanthropic support.** A unified plan enables local governments and nonprofits to submit more compelling and competitive grant applications for recreation infrastructure – such as pathways funding.

¹ Victor Comprehensive Plan (2006); Driggs Comprehensive Plan (2007), Tetonia Comprehensive Plan (2011); Teton County Comprehensive Plan (2012-2030), Teton County Economic Development Plan (2013).



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- **Support coordination of funding and management.** This Rec Plan provides very specific mechanisms for how our currently-underfunded recreation assets can be better managed and steadily funded as a group.
- **Increase tourism.** Better management and funding will improve the recreation experience, which will thus attract a broader pool of year-round visitors to experience all that Teton Valley has to offer.
- **Attract new residents.** Some of these visitors may likely become new residents because they desire our community's high quality-of-life.
- **Strengthen community "ties".** As recreation becomes more accessible to all, residents will have more opportunity to interact and build relationships.
- **Improve self-esteem, physical and mental health of our children.** Most importantly, better coordinated management of our recreation assets will provide increased options for our children to develop their physical and mental wellbeing as well as obtain sports scholarships to further their education.

On behalf of my Board and membership, I urge you to please adopt this Rec Plan as the critical first step to a community-wide, unified plan that capitalizes on our tremendous natural assets as well as provides growth opportunities for our children.

Sincerely,

Stacey Frisk
Executive Director
Valley Advocates for Responsible Development